



U P D A T E

St. Lucie County

May 15, 2004

A Monthly Update of Current Events and Happenings within St. Lucie County

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This update is published monthly by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners' Public Information Office. Direct inquiries to Linette Trabulsi, Public Information Officer, St. Lucie County, 2300 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34982, 772.462.1791, 772.462.2131 Fax, Trabulsi@co.st-lucie.fl.us

Board of County Commission Meeting Changes & Special Meetings Scheduled

- The June 15, 2004 Board of County Commissioners meeting will be changed to 6:00 pm.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Mining Educational Presentation on our local regulations and procedures, and receive technical information on the status of materials regarding mining operations in the county on June 29, 2004 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the County Commission Chambers. Please submit any questions prior to the presentation so that they can be addressed at that time.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Workshop to discuss Native Habitat Inventory and a list of prioritized parcels for acquisition will be presented. The Workshop will be held from 2 pm – 5 pm on June 7, 2004 in Conference Room # 3. Please submit any questions prior to presentation so that they can be addressed at that time.

Celebrate International Museum Day on May 18

Celebrate International Museum Day on Tuesday, May 18, 2004 with free admission to the St. Lucie County Historical Museum and the St. Lucie County Marine Center. Both museums are located on Seaway Drive on Museum Pointe in Fort Pierce and are open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. In the spirit of this year's theme, "Museums and Intangible Heritage," the St. Lucie County Historical Museum invites visitors to explore the Treasure Coast's fascinating cultural heritage. Visitors can discover the cultures of the Ais Indians, Spanish explorers, Seminole Indians and Pioneers and visit the 1908 Gardner House and an early 1900s general store. At the St. Lucie County Marine Center, visitors can learn about local marine life while exploring six different marine ecosystem tanks and a "Touch Tank."

International Museum Day, celebrated worldwide since 1977, highlights how museums provide an important means of cultural exchange and enrichment. For further information, contact Anne Sinnott, Museum Educator, at (772) 462-1891.

Artificial Reef Program Update

The St. Lucie County Artificial Reef Program received a boost this week when County Commissioners approved the work order allowing Coastal Planning & Engineering to continue coordinating the re-permitting of the artificial reef sites.

In October 2003, County Commissioners approved a contract with Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc. to assist the County in securing new artificial reef permits and prepare a grant application to Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC). Permit applications have been submitted to the permitting agencies (Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers), along with the grant application to the FWC. The work order approved yesterday allows for additional services not previously anticipated.

Coastal Planning & Engineering expects permits to be issued later this year. For more information about the County's Artificial Reef Program, call St. Lucie County Coastal Engineer Richard Bouchard at (772) 462-1710.

County's Financial Audit Reveals "No Audit Findings"

The financial audit for the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners was released this week. In their exit conference, the accounting firm of Berger, Toombs, Elam & Frank reported that St. Lucie County was in "sound financial health" and reported no management letter comments. This is the first year the Board has not received any management letter comments. Also, St. Lucie County issued a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended September 30, 2003. This is the first year the County has prepared this comprehensive report.

Landscape Service Offered by the Agriculture Extension Office

The St. Lucie County Extension office is offering a new service to St. Lucie County homeowners. This service provides homeowners the opportunity to have their irrigation system and landscape evaluated. This Landscape Retrofit service includes an evaluation of the irrigation system including information on how to use less water in the landscape, a survey of the landscape including ways it can be improved and answers to common questions answered by an Extension professional. For more information on the complimentary program contact Susan Brodeur at the St. Lucie County Extension at (772) 462-1660.

Wings 'n Wheels Air & Military Vehicle Show

Tickets for the Wings 'n Wheels Air and Military Vehicle Show are on sale now at various locations throughout the Treasure Coast. The air show, which will be held at the St. Lucie County International Airport, is scheduled for June 12 & 13. Expecting to draw thousands of people, this event will honor the members of our military – both past and present – with fly-in demonstrations by modern fighter jets and vintage World War II aircrafts. Gates will open to the public at 9 a.m. with the opening ceremony at 11 a.m. on Saturday June 12. Air displays will take place between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on each day. Spectacular displays both in the air and on the ground are planned for the two-day event. The public will be able to wander around the St. Lucie County airport through a huge ground display of preserved military vehicles including jeeps, trucks, track vehicles, amphibious assault craft and equipment. Adult tickets are \$7, children ages 5-17 are \$3 and children under 5 are free. Those who buy advanced tickets will receive free parking to the event. For more contact the Wings 'n Wheels hotline at (800) 804-5445 or visit: www.slcwingsandwheels.org

June Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center

Florida Native Plant Society ~ June 8 at 6 p.m. ~ Michael Panella will present and explain the concept of "Permaculture," a sustainable method for growing food in your own backyard!

Nature for Families ~ Saturday, June 12 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. ~ Program: *Aquatic Explorers!*

This month's Nature for Families is focused on aquatic ecosystems. Bring the kids and explore the underwater world of ponds. Program includes a hands-on catch and release adventure. Nature for Families is a free program, but space is limited. Please RSVP. 785-5833

St. Lucie Regional Herpetological Society ~ Wednesday, June 16 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. ~ Join the members of St. Lucie's premier herp society to learn about snakes, lizards, frogs and more.

Junior Naturalist Summer Camp ~ June 14-18 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. ~ Campers will hone their naturalist skills as they spend the week observing and studying nature. Hiking, crafts and games are interwoven as kids learn about birds, gopher tortoises, flowers, insects, ecosystems and more! Age range: 8-12 years, Cost: \$75. For more information, (772) 785-5842.

St. Lucie River Tour Guided Canoe/Kayak Tours ~ Saturday, June 19 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. ~ Come on out and enjoy the beautiful St. Lucie River. Cost is \$10 per person. Pre-payment is required. Children ages 5-7 are free.

Sea Turtle Talk ~ Friday, June 25 ~ 12:00-1:00 p.m. ~ The Turtle Mother, Grace Kedizora, will share her vast sea turtle knowledge and experiences with us. Bring your lunch and join us for "Those Amazing Turtles."

Florida State League 2004 All-Star Game is June 12, 2004 at Tradition Field

Don't miss your chance to see baseball's stars of tomorrow today, as the St. Lucie Mets host the 43rd Annual Florida State League All-Star Game at Tradition Field Saturday, June 12 at 7:30 p.m. This all-star event will give St. Lucie County a chance to show off the newly renovated Tradition Field to the rest of the Florida State League, and bring baseball fans from around the state to the Port St. Lucie area. Members from all 12 teams that make up the Florida State League will compete in this mid-summer classic. Tickets to the Florida State League All-Star Game are \$6, and can be ordered by calling the Tradition Field Box Office at (772) 871-2115.

Lakewood Park Regional Park Update

In October 2003, the Board of County Commissioners approved a work authorization with Glatting Jackson for development of a design build package for the Lakewood Park Regional Park. In an effort to expedite the project, the Board also approved a work agreement with Hazen & Sawyer last week for the site development, permitting documents and building design of the Park. The 157 acre regional park will offer active recreation activities including soccer, baseball and swimming and passive recreation activities including a nature trail, picnic facilities and wildlife observation.

John Bruhn, District 1 • Doug Coward, District 2 • Paula A. Lewis, District 3 • Frannie Hutchinson, District 4 • Cliff Barnes, District 5

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